Musharraf's willingness to establish cordial relations

1980. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pak President Musharraf in his Republic Day message to the Prime Minister expressed Pakistan regimes wish to establish a tension free relationship with India and conveyed his readiness for sustained dialogue with New Delhi;

(b) if so, what was the precise message; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) In his letter of felicitation dated 24th January, 2002, addressed to Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the occasion of India's Republic Day, the President of Pakistan indicated Pakistan's desire to establish "tension free and good neighbourly relations" and engage in a "serious" and "sustained" dialogue with India. There is, however, no evidence on the ground that would indicate that Pakistan is taking effective steps to end cross-border terrorism in India. And, in a public address on 5th February, 2002, the President of Pakistan reiterated Pakistan's time worm and untenable formulations on terrorism and also sought to justify continued terrorist violence in Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) Government have on numerous occassions reiterated their commitment to resuming a meaningful dialogue with Pakistan. Pakistan must end its sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India in order to create appropriate conditions for such a dialogue process.